

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 NSCE-00 L-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7792
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4316

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. TO READ GDS-2)

E.O. 11652: GDS-2
TAGS: PINS, NU
SUBJECT: THE TWELVE ON THE COSTA RICAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE

SUMMARY: MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 12 INDICATE THEY WOULD PROBABLY OPPOSE THE COSTA RICAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE THE MOMENTUM OF ATTACK ON THE GON DISRUPTED AND BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT ANY SOLUTION WHICH DOES NOT LEAD TO REMOVAL OF SOMOZA AND INSTALLATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THEY ARE PROMOTING. TO ACCEPT LESS WOULD BE TO DISREGARD LIVES LOST IN THIS EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

1. AMB AND POLOFF MET WITH THREE MEMBERS OF THE "GROUP OF 12"
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(RAMIREZ, BALDODANO, AND D'ESCOTO) ON SEPTEMBER 12. AMB EXPLAINED US POSITION RE PREOCCUPATION OVER CURRENT VIOLENCE AND BELIEF THAT OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT WAS NECESSARY TO TRY TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE STATED FOR THIS REASON US SUPPORTED COSTA RICAN MEDIATION INITIATIVES AND HOPED BROAD SPECTRUM OF NICARAGUAN PRIVATE SECTOR AND POLITICAL GROUPS WOULD

SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE IN ORDER TO GIVE IT A CHANCE FOR SUCCESS.

2. RAMIREZ, WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING FOR THE THREE, EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT HOW THE COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE COULD BE UNDERTAKEN. HE WONDERED IF, FOR EXAMPLE, SOMOZA WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH A LIST OF DEMANDS. HE SAID THE OPPOSITION WOULD NEVER SIT DOWN AT A NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH SOMOZA.

3. AMB EXPLAINED THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THERE IS NO FIXED AGENDA AND THAT THE INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY FOR CONCESSIONS FROM BOTH SIDES. HE ALSO ASSURED THAT THE US IS NOT WEDDED TO SOMOZA STAYING IN POWER. HE EXPLAINED US POSITION, I.E. CUTOFF OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AS HAVING PROVIDED CLIMATE WHICH APPEARED TO BE ENCOURAGING TO OTHER OPPOSITIONISTS AND WHICH LED SOMOZA TO ACCUSE US OF FORMENTING OPPOSITION ACTIVITY.

4. RAMIREZ AND D'ESCOTO WITH OCCASIONAL INPUT FROM BALTODANO, THEN ENGAGED IN HISTORICAL EXPOSITION OF NICARAGUAN SITUATION AND DESCRIBING CURRENT SITUATION. NOTABLE COMMENTS WERE D'ESCOTO'S ASSERTION THAT U.S. POSITION WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY CONCERN FOR BLOODSHED BUT TO MAINTAIN ITS HEGEMONY, AND THAT EXPLAINED WHY U.S. SECRET

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WAS ACTING SO CAUTIOUSLY AND WANTED TO SEE THE CURRENT STRUCTURE PRESERVED EVEN IF SOMOZA LEFT OFFICE. AMBASSADOR AGREED THIS MIGHT HAVE APPEARED TO BE PAST U.S. POLICY, BUT CERTAINLY WAS NOT CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY. AMBASSADOR STATED HIS PERSONAL CONCERN WITH THE BLOODSHED AND BELIEVE THAT USG DIDN'T SEEK HEGEMIC ROLE IN NICARAGUA. RAMIREZ REFERRED TO THE WIDESPREAD NATURE OF CURRENT ATTACKS ON GN WHICH INDICATED PEOPLE WERE FULLY SUPPORTING THIS FSLN OFFENSIVE. AMONG CITIES ATTACKED, HE MENTIONED RIVAS WHERE HE SAID ATTACK WOULD TAKE PLACE TODAY, SEPTEMBER 12. THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE MORE OR LESS AT THE TIME OF THE FSLN CROSS-BORDER ATTACK TURNED BACK BY THE GN AT SAPOA AND SUGGESTS RIVAS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ATTACK.

5. D'ESCOTO AND RAMIREZ EXPLAINED FSLN DID NOT HAVE GOAL OF TAKING OVER GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA. THEIR OBJECTIVE WAS SOMOZA'S OUSTER AND PARTICIPATION IN A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. THEY INSISTED THAT THE OBJECTIVE WAS NOT TO ESTABLISH A MARXIST-LENINIST REGIME.

6. POLOFF ASKED WHAT POSITION OF GROUP OF 12 WOULD LIKELY

BE IF MEDIATION ISSUE WERE REAISED IN FAO. RAMIREZ REPLIED THAT HE WAS SURE THEY WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE INITIATIVE EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD RESPECT FOR PRESIDENT CARAZO AND WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO HIM PRIVATELY.

7. AMB SAID HE HOPED THEY WOULD EXPLORE THE CARAZO INITIATIVE FURTHER, PERHAPS WITH THE GOCR BEFORE THEY DECIDE TO OPPOSE IT. RAMIREZ REPLIED THEY MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH GOCR AS WELL AS OTHER FRIENDLY REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS GOV AND WOULD TRY TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION FROM PRES. CARAZO.

8. RAMIRO INSISTED THAT THE OPPOSITION GROUPS EMB HAS HAD REGULAR CONTACT WITH (I.E., ALL BUT THE 12, SANDINISTAS, SECRET

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AND COMMUNIST) HAVE NO FOLLOWING IN THE COUNTRY. AMB REPLIED THAT WE HAVE NOT MET REGULARLY WITH OTHERS NOT BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTEREST ON EMB PART. RAMIREZ AGREED AND STATED INTEREST IN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH EMB.

9 AMB AGAIN URGED THAT THEY CONSIDER THIS ISSUE AS A TEST OF GOOD FAITH OF THE OPPOSITION IN TRYING TO AVERT FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE; CIVIL WAR COULD BE LONG, TRAGIC AND RESULT IN CONSERVATIVE REGIME AS IN SPAIN.

10. COMMENT: MEETING WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL BUT MESSAGE, ALTHOUGH NOT EXPLICITLY STATED, WAS THAT THEY SMELL SOMOZA'S BLOOD AND ARE GOING TO AVOID ANY ACTION WHICH GIVES HIM TIME TO LICK HIS WOUNDS. THE 12 PROJECTED THE IMAGE OF BEING THE FSLN'S POLITICAL, NOT MILITARY FRONT. SOLAUN

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